

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 SCCT-01 OIC-02

JUSE-00 SY-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 /112 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2804

POUCHED TO ALL CONSULS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CA, UN

SUBJECT: CANADIAN REQUEST TO POSTPONE UN CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS

REF: OTTAWA 2726

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SINCE MACEACHEN ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANADIAN REQUEST TO POSTPONE UN CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS (REFTEL), MEDIA HAS FEATURED DAILY PROMINENT AND NEARLY UNIVERSAL CRITICISM OF CANADIAN DECISION. WHILE EXACT LINE OF ATTACK HAS VARIED, THE THEME HAS BEEN THAT THE GOC HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON THE UN, OF WHICH IT TRADITIONAL STRONG SUPPORTER, IN LARGE MEASURE FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY. POLITICIANS OF ALL PERSUASIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN NOTICEABLY SILENT ON THE ISSUE, AND FOR OBVIOUS REASON, VIZ. THE STRONG POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN CANADA, PARTICULARLY IN TORONTO AND MONTREAL. PREVAILING FEELING NOW APPEARS TO BE ONE OF WAIT AND SEE. THIS FOCUSED IN SHORT RUN ON UN DECISION ON POSTPONEMENT REQUEST AND, IN LONGER RUN, ON SUCH ISSUES AS FUTURE OF UN HUMAN SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR VANCOUVER NEXT YEAR AND POSSIBILITY OF ARAB REPRISALS OR DAMAGE TO CANADIAN EFFORTS AT CULTIVA-
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TION OF ARAB COUNTRIES OVER PAST TWO YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT OF JULY 21 MEDIA COVERAGE OF POSTPONEMENT REQUEST HAS BEEN PROMINENTLY FEATURED ON DAILY BASIS AND HAS BEEN STRONGLY CRITICAL OF GOC DECISION BOTH IN EDITORIAL FEATURES AND IN COLUMNIST REACTIONS. IN JULY 23 EDITORIAL, TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL DESCRIBED GOVERNMENT DECISION AS "A CURTSEY OFF THE HOOK" AND ASSERTED THAT "THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SHOWED ITSELF TO BE WITHOUT BACKBONE, WITHOUT RESPECT FOR PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE IT GOVERNS." COLUMNIST CHARLES LYNCH WRITING FOR SOUTHAM NEWS SERVICES WAS PARTICULARLY HARSH ON MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT. IN COLUMN CARRIED JULY 23 MONTREAL GAZETTE HE CHARACTERIZED MACEACHEN POSTPONEMENT REQUEST WITH CANADIAN WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE IF HELD OUTSIDE CANADA AS "NOT JUST WORKING BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET -- IT TAKES IN THE OVERHEAD WIRES AND THE UNDERGROUND SEWERS AS WELL." RATHER DIFFERENT, THOUGH EQUALLY CRITICAL VIEW, EXPRESSED BY JAMES FERRABEE IN JULY 24 OTTAWA CITIZEN POINTING OUT THAT POSTPONEMENT REQUEST OVERRODE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECOMMENDATION TO HOLD CONFERENCE BUT SCREENING PLO PARTICIPANTS (REFTEL). HE CITED THIS AS EXAMPLE OF SCHISM BETWEEN TRUDEAU CABINET, ON THE ONE HAND, AND SENIOR DIPLOMATS IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON THE OTHER. PRESS ALSO HAS HIT HAARD ON POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY THEME WITH COMMENTATORS BASING DECISION IN MAJOR MEASURE ON POWERFUL JEWISH POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN CANADA. IN FERRABEE ARTICLE HE SUGGESTED THAT "WHAT THE TRUDEAU CABINET APPEARS TO HAVE DONE IS BUCKLE UNDER TO PRESSURE ASSERTED FROM THE CONSIDERABLE AND POLITICALLY POWERFUL ZIONIST LOBBY." IN SIMILAR VEIN, ARTICLE BY RICHARD GWYN IN JULY 24 OTTAWA JOURNAL WAS ENTITLED "CANADA AND THE PLO: CHASING JEWISH VOTES."

3. DESPITE OPPOSITION CRIES OF "COP-OUT" AFTER MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT IN COMMONS JULY 21, THERE WAS NOT ONE QUESTION THIS SUBJECT DURING SUCCEEDING DAY COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD. INDEED, ONLY ONE QUESTION THIS TOPIC POSED BY OPPOSITION DURING ENTIRE WEEK AFTER MACEACHEN STATEMENT AND THAT DIRECTED TO FUTURE OF VANCOUVER CONFERENCE. BEGIN COMMENT: THIS ISSUE IS DISCOMFORTING TO POLITICIANS OF ALL PARTIES IN CANADA. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, JEWISH INFLUENCE PARTICULARLY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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POPULOUS MONTREAL AND TORONTO, IS CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL FORCE. PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ON GOVERNMENT DECISION HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE, EVEN SELF-SATISFIED, SINCE MACEACHEN STATEMENT. UP-SHOT HAS BEEN THAT BOTH PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES AND NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH ARE MAIN OPPOSITION PARTIES, HAVE NOT LAMBASTED DECISION AND ITS RESULT OF BARRING PLO ATTENDANCE, FOR NOW AT LEAST. BEYOND A FLURRY OF COP-OUT CHARGES, THEREFORE, OPPOSITION SILENCE

HAS BEEN FOUND MOST PROFITABLE POLITICAL COURSE. CONTRAST
SHARP BETWEEN MEDIA OUTCRY AND POLITICIANS WARY TREAD. END
COMMENT:

4. AT PRESENT GENERAL FEELING HERE IS ONE OF WAIT AND SEE.
DESPITE MACEACHEN REAFFIRMATION IN COMMONS JULY 25 THAT
PREPARATIONS FOR UN HUMAN SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROCEEDING
NORMALLY, THER IS CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY AS TO INFLUENCAJOF
CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE DECISION ON VANCOUVER CONFERENCE.
THER IS ALSO SOME FOREBODING REGARDING PLO OR ARAB NEXT
MOVES. REPORTED STATEMENTS BY PLO REPRESENTATIVES
SUGGESTING POSSIBLE RETALIATION FOR CANADIAN POSTPONEMENT
REQUEST RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES IN TORONTO STAR JULY 23.
SIMILAR PRESS TREATMENT GIVEN TO REPORTED PLO RESOLVE TO
ATTEND VANCOUVER CONFERENCE.
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